AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Claim 1 (original): A light modulator, comprising:

a plurality of modulator elements arranged substantially in parallel, wherein:

each modulator element includes:

an optically active portion; and

a support portion on either side of the optically active portion, wherein the optically active portion has a narrower width than the support portion.

Claim 2 (original): The light modulator of claim 1, wherein:

the optically active portion remains substantially flat while deflected.

Claim 3 (original): The light modulator of claim 2, wherein:

the optically active portion further includes upper and lower surface areas having substantially equal optical energies.

Claim 4 (original): A movable membrane for light modulation, comprising:

a substantially circular optically active portion; and

a released membrane portion surrounding the circular optically active portion, wherein:

the substantially circular optically active portion includes a plurality of gaps configured to expose a lower surface.

Claim 5 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 4, wherein:

the substantially circular optically active portion remains substantially flat while deflected.

Claim 6 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:

an area of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of gaps is substantially equal to an upper surface area.

Claim 7 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:

an optical energy of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of gaps is substantially equal to an upper surface optical energy.

Claim 8 (original): A micro electromechanical system (MEMS) device capable of light modulation, the device comprising:

a membrane configured to be controllably deflected;

a support structure configured to support the membrane;

an optically-active portion of the membrane that is reflective and configured to be illuminated;

a non-optically-active portion of the membrane between the optically-active portion and the support structure; and

a plurality of gaps in the optically-active portion of the membrane.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 8, further comprising:

a substrate below the membrane having reflective areas under the plurality of gaps.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein the non-optically-active membrane portion is substantially larger in area than the optically-active membrane portion.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 10, wherein the optically-active membrane portion bends less than the non-optically-active membrane portion when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11, wherein the optically-active membrane portion remains substantially flat when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 13 (original):. The device of claim 9, wherein the gaps in the optically-active membrane portion are configured so that substantially equal optical energies are reflected from the membrane and from the substrate below the membrane.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13, wherein both the optically-active membrane portion and the reflective areas under the gaps are covered with a same reflective material.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14, wherein the reflective material comprises aluminum.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 8, wherein the membrane comprises a compliant material from a group of compliant materials including polymeric materials, metals, polycrystalline materials, and amorphous materials.

Claim 17-20 (cancelled)